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# STAFF NEWS

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WASHINGTON

and BELTSVILLE

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For Administrative Use Only

EXPANSIBLE FARMHOUSE.....BELTSVILLE'S NEWEST SHOWPLACE

Anyone mentioning the word "farmhouse" in the Housing and Household Equipment division may expect an illustrated commentary on the many unusual features of the Bureau-furnished expandible farmhouse at Beltsville.

## NUTRITIONISTS CIRCLE DECEMBER DATES

A National Food and Nutrition Institute is scheduled to meet in the Jefferson Auditorium of the Department of Agriculture from Dec. 8-10. Joint sponsors of the conference, with the Department, are the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Interagency Committee on Nutrition Education and School Lunch.

Dr. Hazel K. Stiebeling will preside at the opening session. Approximately 400 representatives of government and non-government agencies with responsibilities for various phases of current food and nutrition programs are expected.

The three-day sessions are planned not only to spotlight today's major problems in food and nutrition, but also to provide up-to-date guidance for educators and others leading in nutrition work.

Topics to be discussed include: food supplies for good nutrition, problems in food distribution that affect nutrition, emergency food planning, achievement of food nutritional status, food and nutrition education, nutrition as a factor in disease, and food laws and food protection.

Since its completion in October, the little two room house has attracted much attention. Following a two week occupancy by Avis Woolrich and Mary Swickard, who tested it for livability, and photographers moved in with tripods and cameras. Lenore S. Thye was later hostess to press and radio women, who tested the flooring materials on the wet-mudtracking day they came to see the project.

They found that the 12x19 foot living room seated a dozen of them with room to spare, and that the carefully chosen and arranged furnishings contributed to convenience and spacious appearance. Responsible for the decorating were the Housing, Household Equipment, and the Textile and Clothing divisions.

With furnishings removed, this house and the two neighboring experimental houses will next be occupied by milkers in the Bureau of Dairy Industry, whose jobs make it difficult for them to live at a distance from the research center farm. All three expandible houses, designed jointly by BPISAE and BHNHE, are built of different materials, and with different cost cutting ideas used. They will continue to be regarded with much interest, to see what types of materials wear the best.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Staff News is out again, and aims to keep the Bureau on its toes about new developments in all divisions. To let us know what's coming up, there is a reporter for each division: Jeannine Ragland, Food and Nutrition; Margaret Vogts, Textiles and Clothing; Katherine Taube, Housing, Household Equipment; Dorothy Owen, Family Economics; Ida Werber, Administrative Management; and your editor is Molly Melham, Information. Help your reporter...keep her up-to-date on news.

## BOUQUETS FOR THE BEEF BULLETIN

"BEEF...facts for consumer education," latest bulletin in Irene P. Wolgamot's series on food commodities, has been getting widespread attention. A few comments:

"I can't resist writing a note to compliment you on a very excellent job. The text is so complete and well written that I believe anyone can obtain a good working knowledge of the subject from this little book."...Edwin Heckler, Manager, Public Relations Department, Armour and Company.

"I was very much impressed with this publication, and wondered if at any time you would be publishing a similar bulletin on "Dairy Facts for Consumer Education."...Lloyd H. Geil, Director of Public Relations, National Dairy Council.

"We have a hunch that the booklet will prove extremely popular with members of our organization and with home economists, teachers, and others in a position to put it to good use. This office is very impressed with it, and plans to promote its distribution through the above mentions in the association publications."...Lyle Ligget, Director of Information, American National Cattlemen's Association.

## FROM BUREAU TO BUSINESS

The functional zip-sleeved women's raincoat, designed by Clarice Scott and Shirley Johnstone, has been manufactured and is now being sold in a Washington department store.

The design, which came from the Bureau in August of 1950, featured large cape-like sleeves which zipper shut against the weather, or open for action and coolness. Miss Scott was contacted by the Weatherbee manufacturers, who modified the design by buttoning the coat, instead of zipping it at the front closing. However, the zip-sleeve feature remains the same.

## BROWN SPOT DILEMMA

Correspondence in the Textile and Clothing division has grown by leaps and bounds since the publication of Verda McLendon's report on causes of weak brown spots when ironing cotton dresses.

Aside from unhappy homemakers glad of help in solving their brown spot trouble, the division has heard from commercial firms interested in the report. Particularly concerned are the manufacturers of liquid starch, zippers, and uniform and fabric manufacturers.

## TURKEY TIME

The Bureau's Thanksgiving spirit has gone both verbally and visually over the air waves.

In a TV broadcast, Mary Swickard, who had 12 minutes to show how to prepare a turkey for roasting, came out with a roasted bird. As a result of her demonstration, requests for the turkey bulletin have come from as far away as Connecticut and Ohio.

Rosalind Lifquist was heard on the NBC Farm and Home Hour. Her talk gave homemakers suggestions on what to serve with the traditional bird.

A Thanksgiving broadcast with a different slant was given by Esther Batchelder for the American Chemical Society. Her talk on WGMS was "Ways in Which Chemistry Contributes to a Thanksgiving Dinner."

## LOOKING BACK ON OUTLOOK

Comments and letters of appreciation on the success of the Outlook conference have been received from extension workers. Says Barbara Higgins, chairman of the • Home Management Specialists' Group:

"I am sure you could sense from the discussion and from the attitude of all present that the material was of interest and value to us. It provides a most valuable form of professional improvement for those of us who need to interpret the latest developments to people in the states."

## NEWS OF NOTE

The Office of Information of the Department held a 3 day Publications Workshop, attended by editors, illustrators, and other Department Information people.

Kay Cronister, head of the BHNHE Information division, was on a panel for the Workshop, and Pelagia Schultz, head of the visual section, was chairman of the exhibit committee.

Improving publications was the Workshop's goal, and much of the discussion centered on the department's program for revising out-of-date publications.

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Ruth O'Brien received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska. She was cited for her research on anthropometric measurements which provide a scientific basis for sizing women's and children's apparel.

Faith Clark received her doctorate from the University of Chicago. Her thesis was "A Comparison of the Relationships Between Income and Meat Consumption in 1942 and 1948, Urban Families in the United States."

Barbara Reagan received her doctorate in economics from Radcliffe College. Her thesis: "Consumption Levels of Regular Hired Farm Workers, United States, 1940-50."

## SCHOOL DAYS

BHNHE-ers have had a little extra-curricular activity in connection with the Department's Graduate School. Paul James is teaching a course in refrigeration, and Sadye Adelson is teaching "Modern Homemaking for Employed Men and Women."

Two guest speakers for Miss Adelson's class were Nada Poole, on "Buying Large and Small Equipment," and Martha Hensley on "Decorating and Furnishing the Home."

## WELCOME BACK!!

To John A. Alexander, who has rejoined the staff of the Family Economics division statistical unit. He has served two years with the Army's 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th division, in Germany.

To Marie L. Mundy, purchasing clerk in the division of Administrative Management, recently returned to the Bureau.

## OTHER NEW FACES

Lorna Van Hoose, clerk-stenographer, and Jeanette Lee, clerk-typist, are two new additions to the staff of the Family Economics division.

Molly Melham has joined the staff of the Information division as a writer in the press and radio section.

Earl Caldwell, Jr., is a new Bureau messenger attached to the Administrative Management division.

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## WE BID FAREWELL

The Bureau will bid a reluctant goodbye on Dec. 1, to Helen S. Holbrook, well known author of many of the housing publications. Miss Holbrook is retiring after 18 years with the Bureau.

Born in Wisconsin, Miss Holbrook received her A.B. degree from Vassar College. In her first position, she taught physics at Vassar. She came to the Bureau in 1934, and started the laboratory for testing household electrical equipment. An outstanding example of her work is the bulletin, "Planning the Kitchen and workroom."

Miss Holbrook plans a holiday trip to Chicago, and a post-inauguration trip to Florida. She then plans to return to her apartment at the Kennedy Warren, and finish up some of the work she has been too busy to complete. She also hopes to have time to devote to tracing her family tree.

## WHITHER AND WHY

Rosalind Lifquist -- to the N.Y. State Welfare Conference in New York City, Nov. 16-20. She spoke to the group on "Nutrition for Older Persons in the Community."

Hazel M. Fletcher -- to the American Society of Testing Materials meeting in N.Y.C. She is chairman of a task group of 18 industrial representatives interested in formulating test methods for, and obtaining basic information about the shrinking and stretching of knit fabrics.

Clarice Scott and Alice Linn -- to confer with representatives of the clothing industry in N.Y.C. about a film strip based on the Bureau's publication, "Buying Men's Suits."

Elizabeth Callison -- to Mount Holyoke to speak to 200 students in the physiology department on her research work with the nutritive value of food.

Arthur Kaplan -- to speak to the Maryland section of the Institute of Food Technologists in Baltimore. His talk was on "The Peroxidase Test as a Measure of Fresh Pack Pickle Quality."

Elsie Dawson, Lucy Alexander, and Georgia Schlosser -- to the "Cookbook Recipe Conference" held at the Hotel Pierre in N.Y.C. and sponsored by the United Fruit Company.

Madelyn Womack -- to be guest speaker at Howard University's Research Seminar Nov. 5. Her talk to the medical students was on "Some Factors Affecting Amino Acid Requirements."

Mildred Adams and Edward Toepfer -- to a research conference on "Applied Chromatography and Spectroscopy," at the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory in Philadelphia, Nov. 17-19.

Earl McCracken -- to Atlantic City to attend the American Gas Association meeting, Oct. 28-29.

Elizabeth Beveridge -- to the National Safety Conference in Chicago.

Enid S. Ross, Katherine Taube, and Nada Poole -- to a meeting of the National Association of Home Laundry Manufacturers, in New York.

Avis Woolrich -- to a conference on "Techniques for Determining Space Requirements in Housing," at Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Lenore S. Thye and Mildred Howard -- to State College, Pennsylvania, for a conference on housing facilities needed for household sewing tasks.

Mildred Howard also went to the meeting of the Southern Technical Housing Committee in Birmingham, Ala. in Oct.

Verda McLendon and Margaret Furry -- to the Sixth National Home Laundry conference in N.Y.C. Dr. McLendon spoke to a luncheon meeting on the now familiar brown spot problems.

In a letter thanking Dr. McLendon, Mr. Roy A. Bradt, conference chairman, said, "Your contribution is all the more important because your talk will be made a permanent part of the record, and published in book form for future use. It will constitute a valuable textbook for home economists and educators throughout the country."

## LAST LEAVE REMINDER

If you're of the fortunate few with over 60 days of leave accumulated, have you made plans to use it before Dec. 19?

"The current leave year ends on Dec. 20, 1952," says Virginia Wright, budget and fiscal officer. "Those who have more annual leave than the maximum accumulation now permitted, must use the excess amount before the close of business Friday, Dec. 19, 1952, or forfeit it. Employees concerned were notified of this on September 18, 1952."

This should help a few get their Christmas shopping done.